

**A Proclamation to be submitted by
Legislators Miller-Williams and Dixon**

RE: Celebrating the Fine Arts Career of Lackawanna Native Mr. Ruben Santiago-Hudson

WHEREAS, Ruben Santiago-Hudson was born in Lackawanna, NY, his love for arts and theatre began after playing Huck Finn in a grade school production of Tom Sawyer. He is married to Jeannie Brittan and has four children Broderick, Ruben III, Trey and Lily; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Santiago-Hudson attended Lackawanna High school, upon graduation, he enrolled in Binghamton University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. He also went on to pursue a Master's in Fine Arts and graduated from Wayne State University. Mr. Santiago-Hudson also received an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Buffalo State College in recognition of his achievements and contribution to the creative arts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Santiago-Hudson wrote and starred in the autobiographical play called Lackawanna Blues, the play was later adapted into an award winning HBO movie in which he, along with his children Trey and Lilly, performed in a supporting role. Mr. Santiago-Hudson has guest starred on numerous daytime dramas, primetime TV series' and movies, Broadway musicals, and blockbuster box office films and currently gives lectures on theater at colleges as well as working as a private acting coach; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Santiago-Hudson has been recognized for his achievements in television and theatre, he has been awarded such honors as the Antoinette Perry Award for Excellence in Theatre (Tony Award) for Best Featured Actor in a Play in 1996, the Humanitas Prize, an award for film and television writing intended to promote human dignity, meaning, and freedom in 2006, the NAACP Lifetime Achievement Theatre Award in 2009, and the Obie Award for Outstanding Director in 2013; and

WHEREAS, as a Lackawanna native, Ruben Santiago-Hudson serves as an inspiration to the students of that city that attend the Global Concepts Charter School, school officials have incorporated a Fine Arts Center into their curriculum that will be named in honor of Mr. Santiago-Hudson's career in the fine arts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize, and honor Erie County native Ruben Santiago-Hudson on his achievements in the arts and theatre industry and to congratulate him on being selected by Global Concepts Charter School to have their Fine Arts Center named in honor of his career.